

State Parks & Recreation



*Presented by:
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*House Natural
Resources Committee*

September 13, 2017

State Parks & Recreation Opportunities



- 103 diverse state parks and recreation areas
- 138 state forest campgrounds
- Host 26 million visitors annually in state parks, including 4 million at Belle Isle
- Over 1 million camp nights, second in the nation
- Camping nights up 6.4% in state parks and 16% in state forest campgrounds
- \$22.8 billion tourism industry supporting 214,000 jobs
- 91% satisfaction rating from user survey

State Parks & Recreation Opportunities



- 19 state-owned harbors
- 12,500 miles of dedicated trails, including motorized and non-motorized trails
- Over 2,600 miles of rail trails (1st in nation)
- 1,300 boating access sites and 80 public harbors support \$3.9 billion boating industry
- Manage over 300,000 acres for recreation

State Parks, Recreational Boating & Trails

FY 2017 Operating Appropriations

Total = \$108,761.6
\$ in Thousands

State Parks

Park Improvement Fund – 63%

- Camping
- Recreation Passport
- Use Permits

Park Endowment Fund – 31%

- Gas/Oil/Mineral Royalties

General Fund – 3%

- Belle Isle

Others – 3%

Forest Recreation & Trails

Off-Road Vehicle Trail Improvement – 21%

- Trail Stickers
- Licenses

Forest Recreation – 7%

- Camping Fees
- Recreation Passport

Snowmobile Trail Improvement – 40%

- Trail Stickers
- Gas Tax

General Fund (for non-motorized) – 4%

National Recreational Trails – 16%

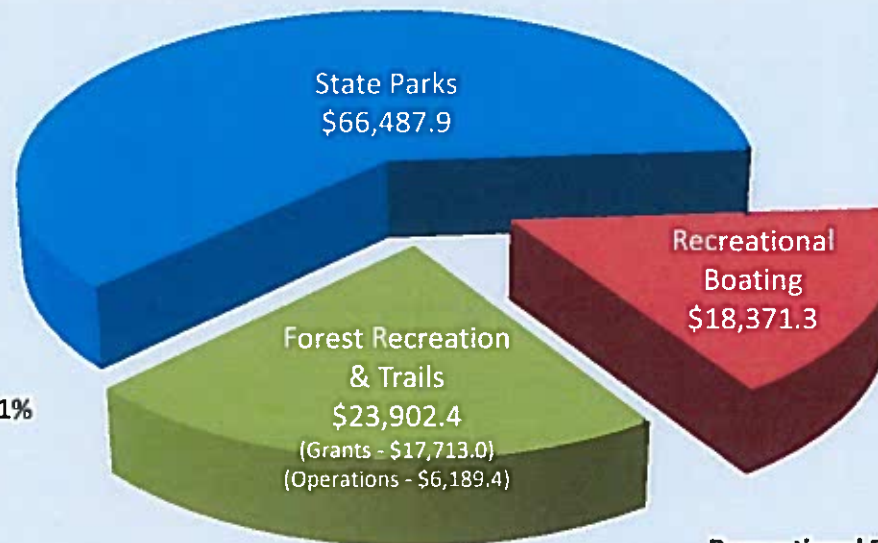
- Grants

Recreation Improvement – 5%

- Gas Tax

Others – 7%

- Federal



* Camping fees, Recreation Passport, and Park Endowment Fund make up the largest portion of park revenues

Recreational Boating

Waterways – 91%

- Watercraft Registration
- Gas Tax
- User Fees (harbor reservations, boating access sites)

Federal – 9%

State Park Endowment Funding

2011 to Present
State Park Endowment Fund

Michigan State Park Endowment
Corpus
50% of Mineral & Gas Revenue
\$240.7 million of the \$800 million

Park Endowment Fund
50% of Mineral & Gas Revenue
Investment Income
Used for Operations, Maint.
Infrastructure and Acquisition

State Park Endowment Funding

Total Park Endowment Fund Revenue
2011-2016 (in Millions)



State Parks & Recreational Boating

FY 2017 Capital Outlay Appropriations

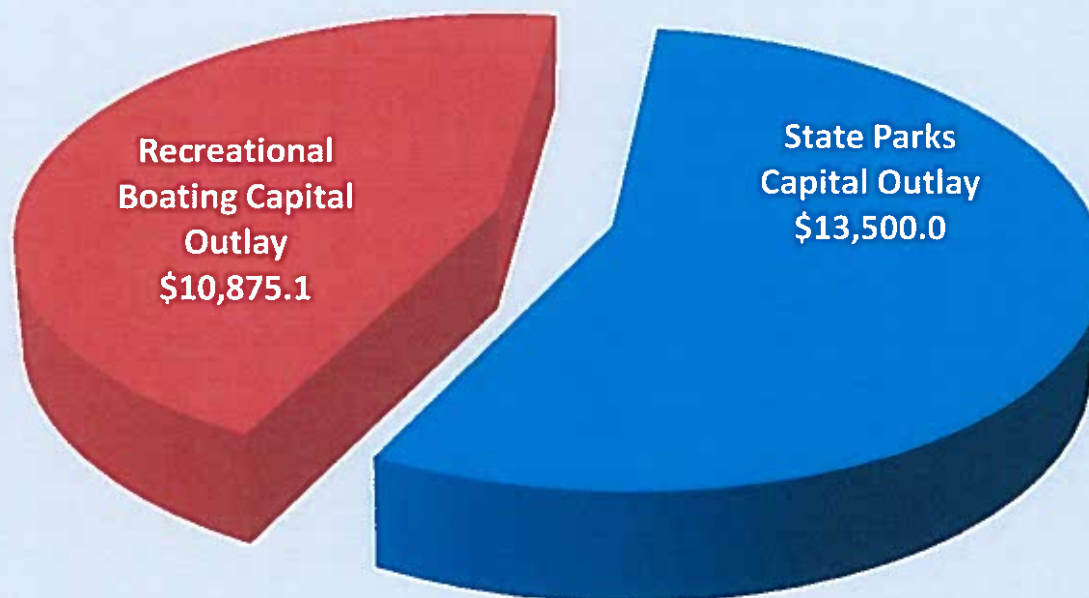
Recreational Boating

Michigan State Waterways – 90%

- Watercraft Registration
- Gas Tax
- User Fees (harbor reservations, boating access sites)

Federal – 10%

Total Revenue = \$24,375.1
\$ in Thousands



State Parks

Park Improvement – 30%

- Camping
- Recreation Passport
- Use Permits

Recreation Passport Fees – 59%

General Fund – 11%

Results – Metrics and Measures

DNR Camper Survey



22,390 camper responses for 2017 season
(through 9/11/17)



Michigan state parks

Inform@tion sources

DNR website 70%
reservation system 36%
friends/family 31%
internet 26%



average stay
4.11 days

Factors for camping



quality of park

89%



enjoyed previous visit

61%



weather conditions

56%



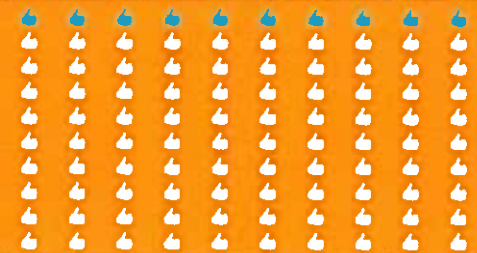
friends / relatives

54%

89%



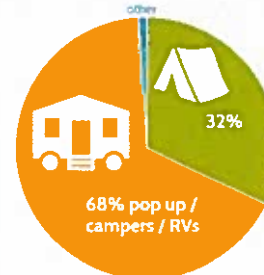
Camper experience
very good / good



Value = 90%
good/
very good

Who is camping

families: 44%
couples: 31%
family & friends: 16%
individual: 3%
friends: 5%



Camper Activities



89 %
resting / relaxing



75 %
walking/running



68 %
visiting beach



68 %
outdoor
cooking



46 %
swimming



41 %
attractions



37 %
reading



29%
horseback



27 %
hiking



29 %
road / mountain biking



92% would recommend
the campground to a friend

Sustainability: State Parks are Green

Detroit Free Press Award



Solar charging station



Car Charging Station



Recycling Station



Wind Turbines



Stakeholder Advisory Groups

- **Program and policy development guided by groups:**
 - Natural Resources Commission (NRC)
 - Michigan State Park Advisory Committee (MSPAC)
 - Belle Isle Park Advisory Committee (BIPAC)
 - Michigan State Waterways Commission (MSWC)
 - Michigan Trails Advisory Council (MTAC)
 - Equine Trails Subcommittee (ETS)
 - Non-motorized Advisory Workgroup (NAW)
 - Snowmobile Advisory Workgroup (SAW)
 - Off-Road Vehicle Advisory Workgroup (ORVAW)

Partnerships - Positioning Parks and Trails

Part of a Healthier Tomorrow



- Basic
- Participating
- Blues Community Challenge TC
- Marquette
- K-zoo



Sharing information through

- Member network
- Physician Network
- Partner networks



- Rec 101/202
- Fresh Air Fit
- Park & Read rebrand



State Parks & Recreation Infrastructure – Comparable To A Small City

- Each park can host between a few thousand to over 30,000 visitors daily
- The Michigan State Parks System (exclusive of Belle Isle Park):
 - 1,351 buildings
 - 468 miles of paved roads
 - 43,092 paved parking spaces
 - 12,500+ miles of trails
 - 12,423 campsites with electrical service
 - 4,272 rustic campsites
 - 49 wastewater lagoons
 - 232 septic fields
 - 68 sanitation stations
 - 93 water systems
 - 152 state forest campground water hand pumps
 - 40 dams

State Parks & Recreation Infrastructure – Comparable To A Small City

- DNR partners with over 200 local communities in recreational opportunities
- State Parks & Recreation Areas host some of the world's most exemplary natural features
- Asset replacement value of Michigan State Parks System exceeds \$1 billion

Michigan State Parks and Recreation System Infrastructure Needs

State Park System Grand Total: 600 Projects

- Estimated \$285,513,487 in identified infrastructure project needs

State Waterways System Grand Total: 143 Projects

- Estimated \$43,168,490 in identified infrastructure needs

State Trails System Grand Total: 148 Projects (excluding Iron Belle Trail)

- Estimated \$42,000,000 in identified infrastructure needs



State Parks & Recreation Infrastructure Needs – FY 2018 Five-Year Capital Outlay Plan

Type of Infrastructure Project	Est. Amount
<u>Buildings</u> - Replacement, renovation, repair and demolition	\$73,915,000
<u>Roads and Parking Areas</u> - Preventative maintenance, repair and replacement	\$61,666,250
<u>Major Development</u> – Complex and extensive development and modernization, including multiple failing utility and road systems	\$53,397,500
<u>Utilities</u> - Replacement, repair and necessary modifications	\$36,297,237
<u>Recreational Structures</u> - Replacement, repair and modifications to: boardwalks, observation decks, fishing piers, floating platforms, playgrounds and field / court areas.	\$34,459,000
<u>Historical Structures</u> - Replacement, repair and accessibility modifications to designated historical structures and amenities.	\$15,615,000
<u>Operational Structures</u> - Replacement, repair, maintenance and modifications to bridges, dams and other operational features.	\$8,253,500
<u>Habitat Restoration</u> – Invasive species control, natural resource protection and the restoration of critical or damaged habitats.	\$1,910,000
Total of over 600 Infrastructure Projects	\$285,513,487

State Parks & Recreation Infrastructure - Most Critical Needs

Type of Infrastructure Project	Est. Amount
<u>Buildings</u> - Replacement, renovation, repair and demolition	\$6,879,600
<u>Roads and Parking Areas</u> - Preventative maintenance, repair and replacement	\$4,681,500
<u>Major Development</u> – Complex and extensive development and modernization, including multiple failing utility and road systems	\$13,676,000
<u>Utilities</u> - Replacement, repair and necessary modifications	\$21,425,494
<u>Recreational Structures</u> - Replacement, repair and modifications to: boardwalks, observation decks, fishing piers, floating platforms, playgrounds and field / court areas.	\$1,040,000
<u>Operational Structures</u> - Replacement, repair, maintenance and modifications to bridges, dams and other operational features.	\$1,398,800
<u>Other</u> - includes habitat restoration and historical structures	910,000
TOTAL:	\$50,011,394

Critical Infrastructure Needs



Critical Infrastructure Needs



Western Upper Peninsula Storm Damage

July 10, 2016 - flood event

- Obliterated trails, closed boat launch, search and rescue of back country hikers and campers



Western Upper Peninsula Storm Damage

July 20, 2016 - wind event

- Closed Emily Lake State Forest campground
- Obliterated miles of trails at the Porcupine Mountains



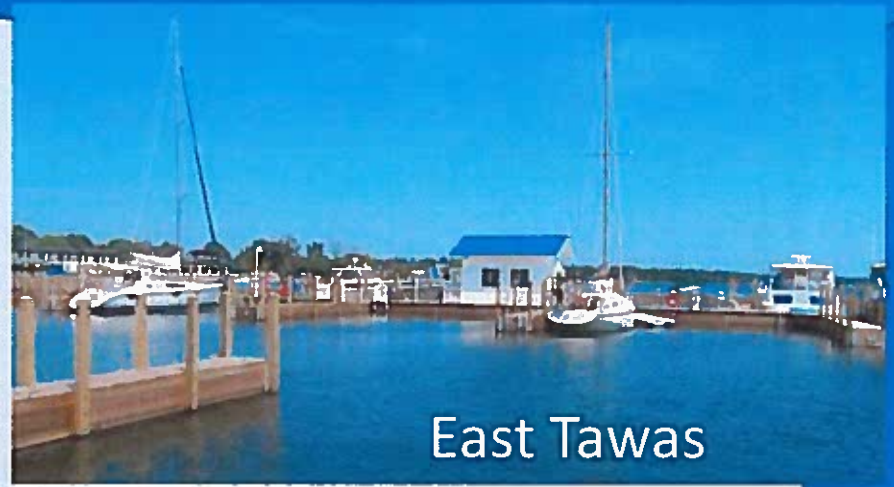
Challenges With Invasive Species

- Summer 2017
 - Belle Isle Park \$200,000 invasive grant
 - Investments in replanting



Recreational Boating

- Grant in Aid Match Funds
 - 5 year plan submissions
- Investing in changing boating behaviors
 - Harbors – East Harbor redesign
 - Creating a more relevant boating experience
 - Alternative boating trends
- Reviewing policies and strategies for watercraft



State Parks and Recreation Beach Accessibility



- Accessible walkways and mobi-chairs
- Partner with Michigan Rehabilitation Services to provide work experience for 150 students



FY2016 Recreation Passport Results

- 31.9% participation (FY2017 Projection 34.5%)
- \$27.6 million in revenue, including:
 - \$7 million to state park infrastructure
 - \$15.7 million to state park operations
 - \$1.4 million to local grants
 - \$1.1 million to recreational boating
 - \$1 million to forest recreation
 - \$1 million to Secretary of State
 - \$384,800 to cultural & historical resources
 - \$35,000 to marketing
- As defined by statutory formulas



Managing for the Future

Responsibly managing infrastructure backlog and emergent facility needs into the future, will continue to focus on:

- Sustainable contraction
- Leveraging funding
- Partnering
- Responding to trends (e.g. innovative overnight lodging options)
- Considering return on investment (ROI)
- Implementing a robust asset management and preventative maintenance system, for efficiencies
- Management planning

Statewide Designated Trails

- Designated Equestrian – 1290 Miles
- Designated Hiking – 3984 Miles
- Designated Biking – 1829 Miles
- Designated Snowmobile – 6132 Miles
- Designated ORV Route – 1294 Miles
- Designated ATV Trail – 1304 Miles
- Designated MCCT – 1068 Miles
- Designated Ski – 1066 Miles



Motorized Trail Program

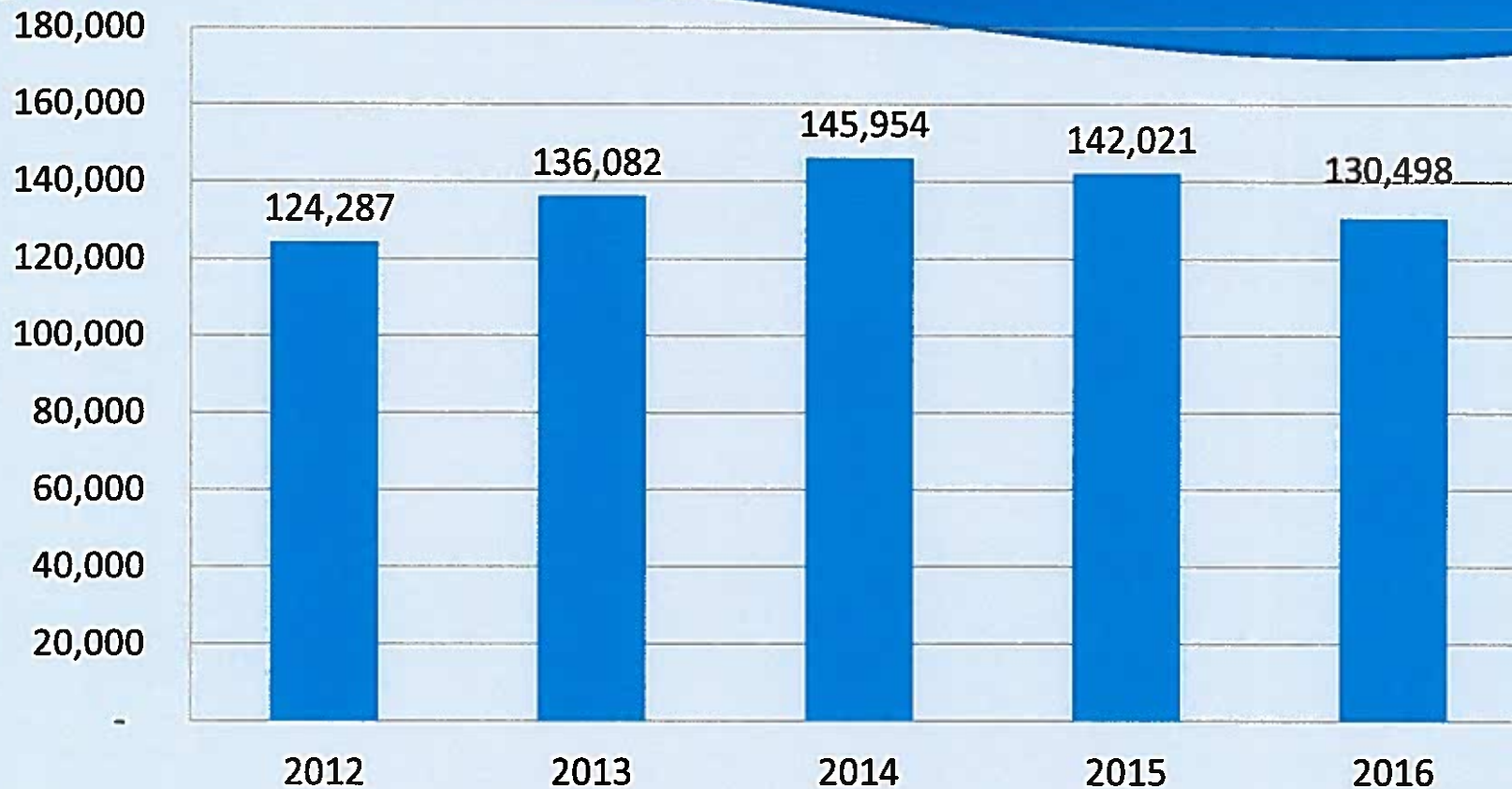
DNR partnered with 68 trail sponsors for its snowmobile program



Five state parks now provide direct ORV trail access while new trails and bridges were opened in 2016



Snowmobile Trail Permits



- Sales trending down - ***2016 sales were 8.1% down from 2015***
- Grooming equipment replacement, maintenance & repairs all increasing

ORV Trail License Restructuring

- New license structure implemented 3/1/14
 - Increase in ORV license fees from \$16.25 to \$26.25
 - Addition of the \$10 ORV trail permit for riding on state-designated ORV trails
 - Annual growth in sales
- Sunset on ORV license and trail permit fees: **3/31/19**
- Increased roughly 200 miles of trails, replaced bridges, culverts, carsonite signs, grading, restoration for ORV damage, increase reimbursement to sponsors and special maintenance projects



Michigan's Iron Belle Trail

- Awarded \$350,000 General Fund in community grants for Iron Belle Trail projects
- Made headlines across the state for partnerships, planning efforts and completed projects
- Opened a 4.2 mile section of the Iron Belle Trail from Ironwood to Bessemer

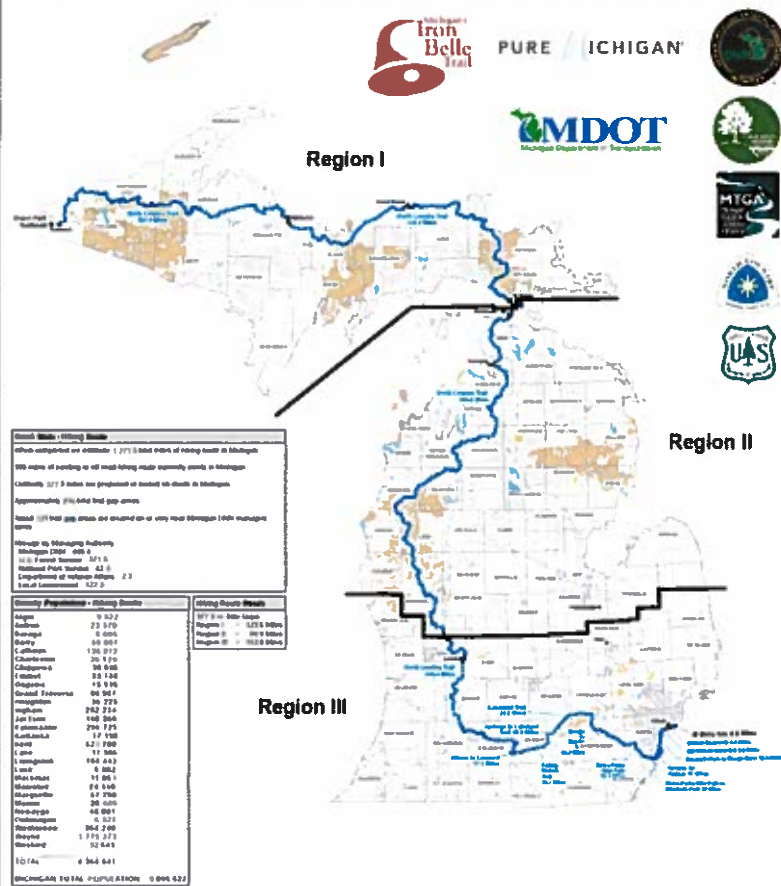


Michigan's Iron Belle Trail

Michigan's Iron Belle Trail

Belle Isle to Ironwood - Two Routes, One Great Trail

HIKING ROUTE

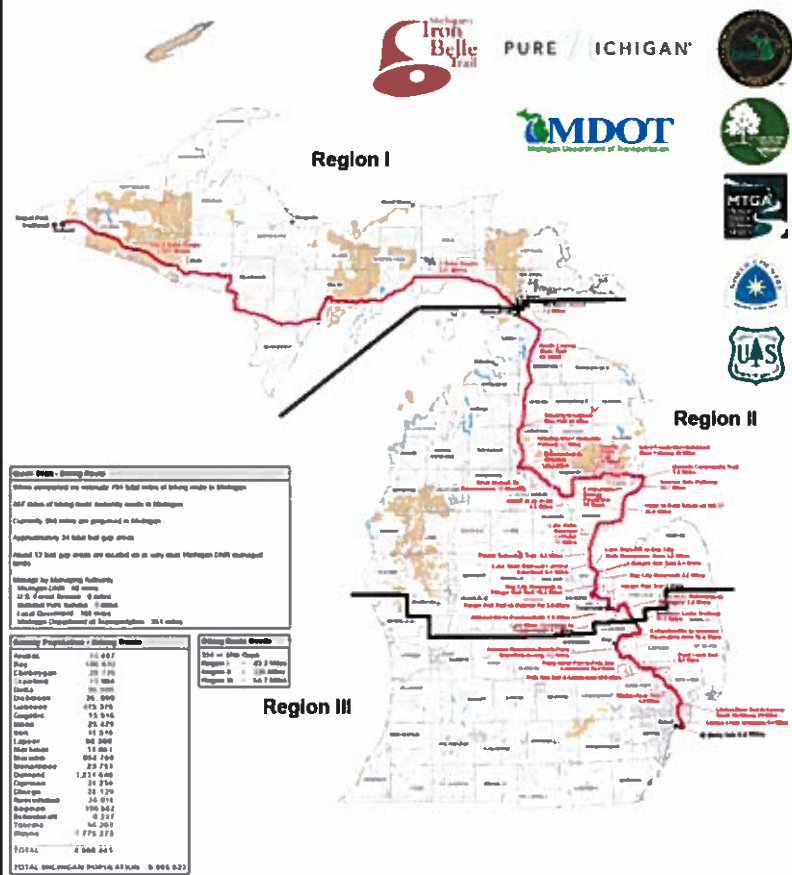


"The illustrated hike and bicycle trail connections will rely upon partnership opportunities."

August 11, 2015
 Michigan Department of Natural Resources
 Forest Resources Division
 Forest Management Section



Michigan's Iron Belle Trail
Belle Isle to Ironwood - Two Routes, One Great Trail
BIKING ROUTE



"The illustrated hike and bicycle trail connections will rely upon partnership opportunities."

August 31, 2015
 (to Superintendant of Federal Services
 (under) Department of Justice
 Chemistry Laboratory Section)



Raising Private Dollars For Trails

- The DNR continued its efforts in 2016 to meet with potential donors and raise money for trail improvements and future endowments. One of the biggest victories of 2016 was a pledge of over \$5 million from Mr. Michael R. Levine toward the Lakelands Trail system.



Connect Trails to Communities



- **Objective:** Provide match for investments from non-profit groups, trail organizations, and the philanthropic community to further develop the Iron Belle Trail
- **Performance Measures:**
 - Increase completed miles of the trail
 - Increase funds leveraged from local partners
- **FY 2018 Investment:** \$5 million one-time General Fund

Thank You – Questions?

